THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) In Vidarbha region, Kharif jowar has been sown on an area of 2.73 lakh hectare, soybean on 19.31 lakh hectare and cotton on 13.14 lakh hectare. Due to long dry spell, soyabean crop on 5.00 lakh hectare is damaged to the extent of about 50 percent and 1.60 lakh hectare is damaged upto 30 percent. There is likely reduction in yield of cotton by 25 to 30 percent in ; about 2.70 lakh hectare and 15 to 20 percent on 10.40 lakh hectare. In jowar crop, there is likely reduction in yield by about 30 to 35 percent on 0.16 lakh hectare area and 10 percent reduction on 2.50 lakh hectare.

(c) To make effective use of available water, drip irrigation system is promoted through various Centrally Sponsored Schemes. Drip irrigation sets on 9366 hectares of cotton area are installed and 17300 farm ponds have been dug for rain water harvesting in Vidarbha region. Further, various *in-situ* water conservation measures like ridges and furrows, dead furrows etc. are promoted through TMC.

FRP for sugarcane

145. SHRI D. RAJA:
SHRI R.C. SINGH:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has announced Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) for sugarcane at Rs.129.84 per quintal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the sugarcane farmers are not satisfied with the newly announced FRP and they have resorted to agitation protesting against it; and

(d) if so, the details and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has announced the 'Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) for sugarcane payable by sugar mills for 2009-10 sugar season at Rs.129.84 per quintal linked to a basic recovery of 9.5% subject to a premium of Rs. 1.37 per quintal for every 0.1 percentage increase in recovery above that level.

(c) and (d) Though there has been no official representation from the farmers or their associations in this regard, it is learnt from media reports that the farmers have got an understanding that the FRP is the maximum price of sugarcane above which they are not entitled to get a price for their cane from the mills. The Government has tried to inform the farmers that FRP is a bench-mark price and the price payable will be a negotiated price between the farmers and the mills and will have to be equal to or above the FRP. The Government has issued clarifications in the press accordingly and has even held meetings with the sugar mills to clarify the same unequivocally and advised them to start crushing of sugarcane early.